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PATENT APPLICATION

U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Takayuki ISHIKAWA, et al.)
Application No.: 10/023,874)
Filed: December 21, 2001)
For: RECORDED MATTER, METHOD OF)
PRODUCING RECORDED MATTER,)
METHOD FOR IMPROVING IMAGE)
FASTNESS, IMAGE FASTNESS-)
IMPROVING AGENT, IMAGE)
FASTNESS IMPROVING KIT,)
DISPENSER, AND APPLICATOR)
: Examiner: B. Hess
: Group Art Unit: 1774
: November 14, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action dated October 16, 2003 in the above-identified application, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Group II (Claims 27-58), drawn to processes of making. (Since Applicants have elected Group II, no further election of species is required.)

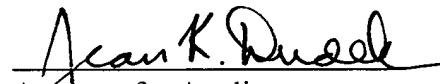
It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in Groups I, II, III and IV could be searched by one Examiner without undue effort. It is also respectfully submitted that it is not mandatory to make a restriction requirement in every possible situation.

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It is believed that if one Examiner acts on all of the claims of the present application at one time, overall examining time will be less than if two or more Examiners are involved. It is also earnestly believed that the examination of all of the claims at one time by one examiner in the present application will best ensure uniform prosecution quality. Therefore, in the interest of prosecution economy of time and quality for both the Office and Applicants, it is respectfully submitted that withdrawal of the restriction and election of species requirements in this application and examination of all pending claims on their merits are appropriate and such action is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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